

③ Some parts
of statement
not given in oral statement.
Gwen @ 10/4/99
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persons)
OCT 04 1999
Nye County Board of County Commissioner's Statement on the Draft EIS000061
Environmental Impact Statement for a High-Level Nuclear Waste
Repository at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada.

My name is Jamieson Walker. I am reading this statement on behalf of the
Nye County Board of County Commissioners.

The disposal of the nation's spent nuclear fuel and high-level wastes at
Yucca Mountain is one of the most significant federal actions ever
undertaken in terms of cost and magnitude, but more importantly, in the
long-term implications for the health and safety of the present and future
generations of Nye County residents.

Nye County recognizes that the permanent isolation of the wastes currently
in storage at scores of sites across the United States is an essential element
of our national energy policy.

Nye County also recognizes that the disposal of these wastes at Yucca
Mountain will reduce the threat to the resources, and the public dependent
upon those resources, at each^{of} those sites.

However, the United States must recognize that the reduction in risk at these
sites will result in the focusing of those risks on a single jurisdiction, my
jurisdiction as a Nye County Commissioner.

5... The disposal of these wastes, with a total radioactivity on the order of 14
billion curies, will most certainly render the environment of Nye County
vulnerable to contamination well into the future and will pose a threat to the

5 cont. citizens in the shadow of the repository that will last, for all practical purposes, in perpetuity.

1 Therefore, it is incumbent upon Nye County, the United States, and the decision makers to be fully aware of the direct, indirect, short-term, and long-term impacts of the proposed action. I am sorry to say that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement does not adequately define, evaluate, and assess those impacts.

2 The proposed repository at Yucca Mountain raises a number of concerns to the citizens of Nye County and the Nye County Board of County Commissioners. First and foremost are the concerns related to health and safety impacts. These include a number of transportation issues. [The national transportation network shown in the Draft EIS points to the fact that the shipment of wastes, whether by truck, rail, or intermodal, will funnel *all* of the waste shipments through Nye County. The United States must take all necessary steps to insure that 1) the wastes are safely transported; 2) Nye County residents are not subjected to additional risks, and 3) Nye County be given the capability to respond to any accidents within its jurisdiction.]

3 [The impacts of Yucca Mountain on the County's precious water resources are also of paramount concern. The proposed action will result in the release of radioactive contamination into the only source of water available to the community of Amargosa Valley. The proposed action has the potential to render the water supplies of the city of Pahrump and all of southeastern Nye County vulnerable to contamination. The Department of Energy's hypothetical maximally exposed individuals will in reality be Nye County

3 cont. citizens, real people with real families. The United States must guarantee that the future generations of Nye County residents will have a reliable supply of safe water.

The Draft EIS does not identify the measures that will be taken to mitigate the contamination or other adverse impacts that will occur. Further, mitigating measures are not identified to provide Nye County the wherewithal to insure that long-term institutional controls are in place that will protect the County's future residents.

4 The adverse impacts on our water resources must be mitigated by guaranteeing Nye County a safe water supply and by giving the County the wherewithal to implement and manage comprehensive well-head protection programs and continued oversight of the repository. Nye County must be guaranteed that comprehensive monitoring will occur as long as the wastes at Yucca Mountain pose a threat. Nye County must also be guaranteed that those charged with monitoring will have the institutional authority and the technical and financial resources needed to provide long-term protection of the health and welfare of the County and its residents.